

be seen from the figure, has not this elongated neck. It has typical ant-lion jaws, though without teeth, and its claws are also typical.

I secured two or three specimens only, after many hours of search with a sieve and trowel, but I was unable to breed them up, possibly because I had not the right food for them. I think possibly they may feed on "Leather-jackets", the larvae of a Tipulid, as I found a number of these in the vicinity. The lacewing larvae which I found, moved freely through the loose surface sand and did not construct a pit. They were about three-eighths of an inch long and about half that in width, cream in colour with the jaws brown, two sharp claws on each foot and the body sparsely covered with short stiff hairs.

The imago is very restricted in regard both to the locality of occurrence and period of flight. I have only found them along one particular ridge in South Perth and only flying for about 10 days at the beginning of December, though they have been reported, on good authority, as having been seen in Victoria Park, near the Kent Street School. I have brought numerous specimens home and kept them alive for a week or more by feeding them on cotton-wool saturated with sugar or honey and water, but I never saw them mate nor did the females lay. I have also liberated a number on my property in the hopes that I might establish them here, but without success.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater at Rottnest Is.**—On January 10, 1947, while I was on holidays at Rottnest Island I waded out to Green Island at Nancy Cove. The top of this islet is rounded and has many holes and cavities, some covered by pig-face. In one hole I found a Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*) brooding on an egg and more shearwaters were noticed in other crevices. Previously these birds had been thought to nest only at the West End and Dyer's Island in the Rottnest area.

—W. R. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

**Cuckoo Bees (*Crocisa*) at Bunbury.**—It may be news to some that in Australia we have a small genus of bees with parasitic habits. W. W. Froggatt, at one time Government Entomologist in New South Wales, refers to three species in his splendid book, *Australian Insects*. He remarks: "The genus *Crocisa* contains a few very handsome bees of a uniform black colour with smoky rings and brightly marked bodies. *C. albomaculata* has the face, upper and under surface and legs thickly marked with white pubescence." Another species, *C. lamprosoma*, has the white replaced by pale blue. A third species, *C. nitidula*, has the pale blue replaced by rich metallic blue.

In the West we have one species, *C. waroonensis* at Bunbury. This handsome bee, about the size of the common hive bee, may be seen flying over the perfumed flowers of the Quandong. It sel-

dom alights for these cuckoo bees, as the name implies, are parasitic. The female lays her eggs in the food cells of the industrious species. Whether these cuckoo bees actually live in their hosts' nest is unknown. Their object in flying over the Quandong flowers appears to me to give them the opportunity of following the bees collecting pollen to their nests. They are very swift flyers and appear over the bushes at irregular intervals on hot days. They resemble in appearance the before-mentioned *C. albomaculata*. They have a double row of five conspicuous white spots down the abdomen with three white blotches on the flanks and white blotches also on the femur. The face is white, the antennae black and rather long and the outer margins of the wings dull brown. They are stingless.

*Crocisa waroonensis* has a very wide range in Western Australia. Mr. L. Glauert informs me that the Museum contains specimens from the Gascoyne in the north, inland to Mt. Jackson and Salmon Gums as well as from several localities in the wheat-belt and Rottnest Island. He also tells me that he collected a second species, *C. albifrons*, at Landor Station on the Gascoyne when he visited that locality in 1929.

—F. LAWSON WHITLOCK, Bunbury.

**Aggressive Behaviour of Black and White Fantail.**—In the June issue of *The Western Australian Naturalist*, in the article by Eric Sedgwick, I read with interest the reference to the aggressive behaviour during the nesting season of his pair of Willie Wagtails or Black and White Fantails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*). They drove away not only Magpies and Magpie-larks but also Swallows and Chestnut-tailed Thornbills, one Thornbill being held down and pecked.

I can substantiate Mr. Sedgwick's remarks. Until recently, I had always regarded the Wagtail as a friendly little bird, guilty of nothing more unsoeiable than the driving away of large and possibly undesirable intruders during the nesting season. Another side of its character, however, was revealed to me last spring.

Early in October, 1946, I was entering the grounds of the Teachers' College, Claremont, where trees and shrubbery provide one of the best bird sanctuaries in the metropolitan area, when I was surprised to see a Wagtail attacking what appeared to be a large moth or butterfly. The Wagtail was on the ground and was viciously pecking at its victim which it had pinned down.

When I drew near I was amazed to see that the Wagtail was attacking another bird. It did not relinquish its victim until I was within a few feet of the struggling birds. It then withdrew with reluctance, revealing its victim to be a badly mauled Silver-eye (*Zosterops australasiae*). As I stretched out my hand to capture the Silver-eye it fluttered away, only to be pounced on by the Wagtail which clutched it with its feet and bore it to the ground. With the Wagtail on top, the struggle was renewed, the Wagtail pecking its victim so viciously that clouds of downy feathers filled the air.